

Walking School Bus

On Friday, October 14th, "Chum," the mascot of the Arena National Football Champion Jacksonville Sharks escorted nearly 400 Oakleaf students and parents to school as part of a "Walking School Bus" initiative sponsored by the Communities Putting Prevention to Work program.

Students and Parents received safety tips, bike helmets, water bottles and other great give-a-ways for participating and being safe!



See more event photos at:
<http://photos.jacksonville.com/mycapture/folder.asp?event=1342084&CategoryID=57820>

Coordinators from the Department of Health work with community leaders to instill three interventions:

- 1) Increased physical activity.
- 2) Improved nutrition.
- 3) Tobacco-free facilities.

Visit www.floridacppw.org for more info.

West Nile Virus (WNV)

The Clay County Health Department (CCHD) has reported a case of WNV in an adult resident. The CCHD has been working closely with Clay County Mosquito Control to provide spraying in problem areas. The Communicable Disease/Epidemiology Department continues enhanced surveillance for WNV by working with local hospitals and healthcare providers. Residents and visitors are reminded to help prevent mosquitoes and mosquito bites by following these recommendations:

- 1) Use mosquito repellent according to manufacturer recommendations.
- 2) Apply repellent to exposed skin or onto clothing.
- 3) "Drain and Cover"
 - ✓ Drain water from garbage cans and any outdoor containers where water has collected.
 - ✓ Discard items that are outside and not being used, such as old tires, cans, broken appliances.
 - ✓ Empty and clean birdbaths and pet water bowls at least once or twice weekly.
 - ✓ Maintain swimming pools by keeping them properly chlorinated and empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

- ✓ Cove skin with clothing or repellent.
- ✓ Cover doors and windows with screens. Check regularly to ensure there are no holes and replace as necessary.
- ✓ Clothing – wear shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeves when outside.

Talk with your healthcare provider regarding West Nile Virus symptoms and any testing that he/she recommends.

Health Department Supports Clay County School Board Health Fair

Over 5,000 Clay County School employees, retirees and their families attended the health fair on Friday, October 21st at Fleming Island High School. Health Department staff gave out Hepatitis B vaccines to employees. In addition, Dean Jones, Clay County Sheriff Officer, and John Steinberg, health department volunteer, fitted 250 children with bicycle helmets provided by the Health Department. Finally, Health Department staff provided health information to encourage active and healthy lifestyles and promoted the 2012 Step Up Clay County Event, which will be held February 4th at Oakleaf High School.

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Step Up is a free community Fitness Celebration, with St. Vincent's Healthcare sponsoring a 5K and fun run for school run/walk programs.



ANIMAL CARE SEMINAR

On Saturday October 15, 2011, the Clay County Health Department and Clay County Animal Care and Control hosted a seminar for animal care professionals. The topics included animal rabies, emergency preparedness and tick-borne diseases. This seminar was attended by local veterinarians, animal control, veterinary office, and health department staff. The key speaker was Dr. Danielle Stanek, DVM, Zoonotic Epidemiologist for the Florida Department of Health and guest speaker was Lt. R. Larson, USN, entomologist.

Rabies:

The top four animals in Florida that can carry rabies

are raccoons, bats, cats, and fox. In 2010, Florida had 15 bats, 15 cats, 15 foxes and 75 raccoons test positive for rabies. In 2010 Clay County had 5 raccoons and 1 fox and this year 2 raccoons to date with no human exposures.

Each year many Clay County residents are treated with rabies injections for exposure to possible rabies from animal bites. These include stray/ feral (wild) cat bites, bat bites, and dog bites when the animal cannot be located. These people receive the rabies shots because the rabies status of the animal is unknown. Thirty-one Clay County residents were treated with rabies shots in 2010 and seventeen have been treated with rabies shots so far in 2011. Physicians and residents are reminded all animal bites are to be reported to Clay County Animal Care and Control.

Emergency Shelters:

New in Clay County this year is the establishment of pet friendly shelters. These shelters are operated by the Clay County Emergency Management and Clay County Animal Care and Control. Volunteers are needed to provide assistance in these shelters during an emergency, such as a hurricane. More information on pet friendly

shelters and sign up forms can be found at <http://www.claycountygov.com/CACC/registry.html>

Ticks:

Lt. R. Larson, USN, also discussed the large tick population in Clay County. People are reminded to take precautions against getting tick bites. Precautions include using repellent on clothing; wearing long pants and long sleeves, tuck pants into boots/shoes to prevent ticks from getting on the skin. People are reminded to check closely for ticks after being in a tick infested area, such as the woods and/or take a shower as soon as possible. This will help to rinse the ticks off the skin. If you must remove a tick you can follow the recommendations provided by the CDC at http://www.cdc.gov/ticks/removing_a_tick.html

Many people never know they were bitten by a tick since they are so small. Some illnesses that ticks can cause in humans are Lyme and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Symptoms of these illnesses include rash, nausea, vomiting, and fatigue. For more information talk with your healthcare provider or call the Clay County Health Department at 904- 529-2852.

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